

He came to understand the power of television, as did few politicians of his era. Almost coincidentally he eased into the financial security it would take to enter into politics, even as the world was being set up for another major conflict in which his son George would eventually play a role.



In everyone's life there is a summer of '42; Prescott Bush spent his on Wall Street, where nostalgia and romance are not the hot commodities they were in the motion picture that made the phrase symbolic.

A headline that landed on the front page of the New York *Herald-Tribune* in July of that year read: "Hitler's Angel Has 3 Million in U.S. Bank." The reference was to the Union Banking Corporation. Prescott may have been upset or alarmed by the disclosure—he was one of its seven directors. A person of less established ethics would have been panicked.

The story claimed that the bank held \$3 million in deposits for a German businessman, described as a "financier" for Adolf Hitler. There was speculation that the account may have been intended for the later use of "Nazi bigwigs."

Buried in the databases that dealt with the Bush family political tradition, the article was rediscovered and reported in the *Boston Globe*, in April 2001, by Michael Kranish. He concluded in the article that the connection had represented a potential "embarrassment" for Prescott. No one actually knew what purpose the fortune had been meant to serve, or who controlled it. Possibly, the money had been socked away as a hedge against Germany's defeat.

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